

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

INFORMATION READ/WRITE MEDIUM

22154 U.S. PTO
10/600768
06/23/03

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates to an information read/write medium on which information can be recorded and from which information can be reproduced, and more particularly to the structure of the information read/write medium.

10 The present application claims priority from Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-188831, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

15 In recent years, there is an increasing demand for a larger-storage-capacity information read/write medium (hereinafter referred to as an "optical disc") which utilizes beams of light to record information thereon or reproduce information therefrom.

20 To meet this demand, research and development has been conducted on a phase change optical disc having two recording layers or a so-called two-layer recording phase-change optical disc, implementing a recording capacity being about twice as large as that of a phase change optical disc having only one recording layer.

25 Fig. 8 is a schematic sectional view illustrating a typical structure of this phase change optical disc, provided with a stack of layers "0" having a first recording layer 9 and a stack of layers "1" having a second recording layer 4.

 The recording layers 4 and 9 are formed of a compound which is heated by a laser light beam or cooled to change its phase to